



**BIRMINGHAM AREA
HOSPICE**



LEARN MORE ABOUT HOSPICE

Birmingham Area Hospice is part of a growing national movement which provides a unique way of caring for the terminally ill patient. It is designed to give this special patient the physical, emotional and spiritual support he or she needs while providing similar support to the patient's family.

Hospice makes it possible for the *leaving of life* to have as much dignity as the *living of life*.

PART OF A NATIONAL
NETWORK AND . . .

THE HOSPICE TEAM

Each patient and his or her family will be assigned a team who will form a caring unit throughout the patient's illness and death and the family's bereavement. The team's job is to support the family by teaching and providing the atmosphere needed to care for the dying patient. This atmosphere reduces the fear and uncertainty surrounding the family and the patient.

There are six team members.

Nurse

The permanent Hospice staff includes a nurse who, in consultation with the family, will set up a care plan for the patient. While supervision by the primary care physician is critical throughout the course of the plan, the nurse provides immediate access for the patient and family to professional care, as well as emotional support.

Social Worker

This professional will be made available to the patient and the family and can provide assistance with a wide range of needs. This may include locating community resources and providing support through emotional family crises, both during the illness and after death.

Chaplain

In an effort to answer the hospice needs of every situation, Hospice ensures that clergy can be made available according to the wishes of the patient. Even though most families have their own support group and some may not wish to use this member of the team, local clergy are an important part of the Hospice network.

Volunteer

Perhaps the key member of the team is the specially trained Hospice volunteer. We give our volunteers extensive preparation for the care and nurturing of the terminally ill patient and his or her family. We find we have much to learn from the people who volunteer.

Home Health Aides

The Home Health Aide is provided for personal care. This includes a bath, hairwash, shave, skin care, mouth care and linen change as scheduled by family and the nurse.

Medical Director

The Medical Director has overall responsibility for the medical components of the program, also responsible to the executive director for developing, maintaining, and monitoring all policies and standards of the medical activities of the organization and liaison activities with members of the local medical community.

A PART OF
YOUR FAMILY!



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2026 with funding from
CLIR DHC Grant 2026-2028

<https://archive.org/details/2174.02.15>

WHO QUALIFIES FOR HOSPICE CARE?

Anyone who has been told by a physician that he or she has six months or less to live is eligible for the Hospice program. A patient may be referred by a doctor, friend, family member or clergy—or may simply call our office. We like people to call us—we can't help if we don't know we're needed.

A Jefferson County residency.

HOW DOES HOSPICE WORK?

It is important to remember that the Hospice team supports the family as well as the terminally ill patient. The nurse provides care and prepares the family to deal with each stage of the illness. Both the social worker and the chaplain are experienced in handling the details that can overwhelm a family at the time of death; they are an invaluable resource on which a family can lean. Volunteers ease the burden in many ways by sitting with the patient, reading, talking or just listening. In the period following death, the team continues support for the family, including providing a monthly bereavement support group which allows sharing feelings with others who have experienced a similar loss.

24-HOUR ON-CALL

As a Hospice family, you have access to us at any time of the day or night by calling 941-0801. If you call after working hours, an answering service will take your call and a member of the team will be back in touch with you within 20 minutes. Your nurse will make a home visit, if necessary. Even if you just need to talk, don't hesitate to call... *We are here for you.*

LEARN MORE ABOUT HOSPICE

Birmingham Area Hospice is part of a growing national movement which provides a unique way of caring for the terminally ill patient. It is designed to give this special patient the physical, emotional and spiritual support he or she needs while providing similar support to the patient's family.

Hospice makes it possible for the *leaving of life* to have as much dignity as the *living of life*.

PART OF A NATIONAL
NETWORK AND . . .

WHO PAYS FOR HOSPICE?

There is no charge to the client or family for services, although insurance companies, Medicaid or Medicare can be billed if the family has a Hospice benefit. Hospice is supported by the generosity of institutions and individuals with an interest in expanding the range and quality of care—for both body and spirit—provided in our community. We seek financial support on an on-going basis. You can become a member of the Hospice team by remembering us with your charitable gifts—large or small—as thanksgivings, memorials, or for any reason at all. Make checks payable to BAH.

I WANT TO JOIN THE HOSPICE TEAM

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

DaytimePhone _____

Check your interests:

☐ I want to be a Hospice volunteer

☐ I want to contribute Pledge \$ _____

Amount enclosed _____

☐ I, or a friend, may need Hospice

☐ Other _____

Detach and mail to: Birmingham Area Hospice, P.O. Box 2648, B'ham, AL 35202-2648

A Service of
the Jefferson County
Department of Health



March 20, 1996

Reverend Marge Ragona
Covenant Metropolitan Community Church
5117 First Avenue North
Birmingham, AL 35212

Dear Rev. Ragona:

It has come to my attention that you are interested in becoming a member of the Birmingham Area Hospice Advisory Board. It would be an honor to have you become a part of our team. I have enclosed some information regarding Hospice and it's Advisory Board for your review to help finalize your decision. If you would like to attend a Board Meeting to see what is involved, please contact me at 930-1341 or Barbara Guinn at 930-1330.

Again, it would be an honor to have you serve.

Sincerely,

Gregory Townsend, Administrative Assistant
Birmingham Area Hospice

GT/bg

Attachments

cc: Cathy Jennings

THE HUNTINGDON AREA HOSPICE
PROPOSAL

The Huntingdon Area Hospice, as a affiliate of the Jefferson County Department of Health, is a non-profit organization which is organized to provide care and support to the terminally ill and their families. The objectives of the Advisory Board are to:

1. To provide care and support to the terminally ill and their families.
2. To provide care and support to the terminally ill and their families.



THE BIRMINGHAM AREA HOSPICE PROFESSIONAL ADVISORY BOARD

The purpose of the Birmingham Area Hospice is to provide support and care for residents of Jefferson County in the last phases of incurable disease; helping them live as fully and comfortably as possible. Hospice perceives death as a part of the life cycle and views its role as helping individuals and families cope with the challenges of living with terminal illness and bereavement following loss.

The Professional Advisory Board is made up of interested professionals or consumers from the community who meet quarterly to advance the mission and goals of the Birmingham Area Hospice, an affiliate of the Jefferson County Department of Health.

The objectives of the Advisory Board are to:

1. Interpret and publicize services offered by the Hospice program.
2. Advise on professional issues and policies regarding the Hospice program.
3. Participate in evaluation of the program.
4. Assist the program in maintaining and developing liaison with other health care providers and community resources.
5. Review the Hospice program's by-laws and policies governing the scope of services and make recommendations annually.
6. Suggest names of candidates for membership on the Board.
7. Serve as a vehicle for dissemination of information to and from the community regarding the Hospice program.
8. Assist in fund raising and monitoring of Hospice Charities funds.
9. Serve as a consultant to the Hospice team regarding community needs.

